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## OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>OP</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ <sup>IMMEDIATE</sup>

INFO: CINCPAC/POLAD

May 24 7 20  
1133

AP ticker item based on Hilsman testimony before Moss subcommittee foreign operations and government information today states Hilsman QUOTE blamed SVN authorities for most shortcomings in news coverage war in SEA UNQUOTE. Story also says Hilsman stressed our servicemen QUOTE lack either a combat or command role despite fact 35 killed 162 wounded in action to date UNQUOTE.

Full Hilsman statement by signals. Main thrust statement is that US press policy Viet-Nam one of maximum feasible cooperation with press. On GVN, statement stresses success in building nation since 1954, and while it notes press difficulties and problems, emphasizes improved GVN performance in cooperating with press. Statement stresses this is Vietnamese war, does suggest we should have command or combat role.

Your unclassified airgram 327 Dec 19 including ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Harkins also letter/released by ~~xxx~~ subcommittee.

Since GVN authorities likely react sharply to press distortion Hilsman statement, you may wish draw full text their attention for full perspective.

SCP-3.

RUSKAND

Dated by: FE:WG/VN:TJCHesvner/imp 5/24/63

Telegraphic transmission and  
classification approved by:

FE - Roger Hilsman

Clearances:

FE/P - Mr. Manell P - Mr. McCloskey (in subs)

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